



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

EDDIE A. PEREZ
MAYOR

TELEPHONE: (860) 543-8500
FAX: (860) 722-6606

For Immediate Release:

OCTOBER 20, 2004

CONTACT:

BILLIE C. SCRUSE, PRESS SECRETARY

**MAYOR PEREZ AND COUNCILPERSON ELIZABETH HORTON
SHEFF TO HOST GRANDPARENT GALA**

HARTFORD, CT - The number of grandparents raising their grandchildren is on the rise. As parents struggle with substance abuse, teen pregnancy, mental illness, AIDS, incarceration, parental neglect and economic hardships, grandparents have taken the responsibility to care for their grandchildren.

In order to address the many social problems and financial needs that grandparents must tackle as caregivers to their grandchildren, Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez and Councilperson Elizabeth Horton Sheff will host a:

Grandparent Gala
Saturday, October 23, 2004
7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Hamilton Heights, One Hamilton Heights Place, West Hartford

The Grandparent Gala fundraiser contributions will establish a **“Grandparent Kinship Fund.”** Meeting the basic needs on a fixed income presents financial and emotional stress. Quite often grandparents take on the parenting role with little notice and/or preparation, often setting aside their own personal needs to care for their grandchildren.

This fund will assist those grandparent/kinship families who are experiencing financial hardships with assistance for milestone events in their grandchildren's lives, they otherwise could not afford to participate in (school pictures, sports, confirmation, communion, prom, etc.). This fund will also assist families with the purchase of glasses, braces, and medical equipment that would not be covered under healthcare insurance.

For more information about the **Grandparent Kinship Fund** or **Grandparent Gala**, please contact **Elby Gonzalez-Schwapp** at **860-547-1426 ext. 7572**. Your tax-free financial contributions can be made payable to:

***Grandparent Kinship Fund
c/o Family Life Education, Inc.
39 Grace Street
Hartford, CT 06105***

###